

News

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GREATER NEW YORK AREA UNEMPLOYMENT RATE HOLDS STEADY AT 6.2 PERCENT IN SEPTEMBER; JOB COUNT FALLS BY 23,600 FROM A YEAR AGO

The unemployment rate for the New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area¹ was 6.2 percent in September, essentially unchanged from a year ago, and slightly above the 5.8 percent for the nation, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today. The greater New York area's jobless rate has been equal to or above the national average for 19 of the last 20 months. (See table 1. All data in this release are not seasonally adjusted; accordingly, over-the-year analysis is used throughout.)

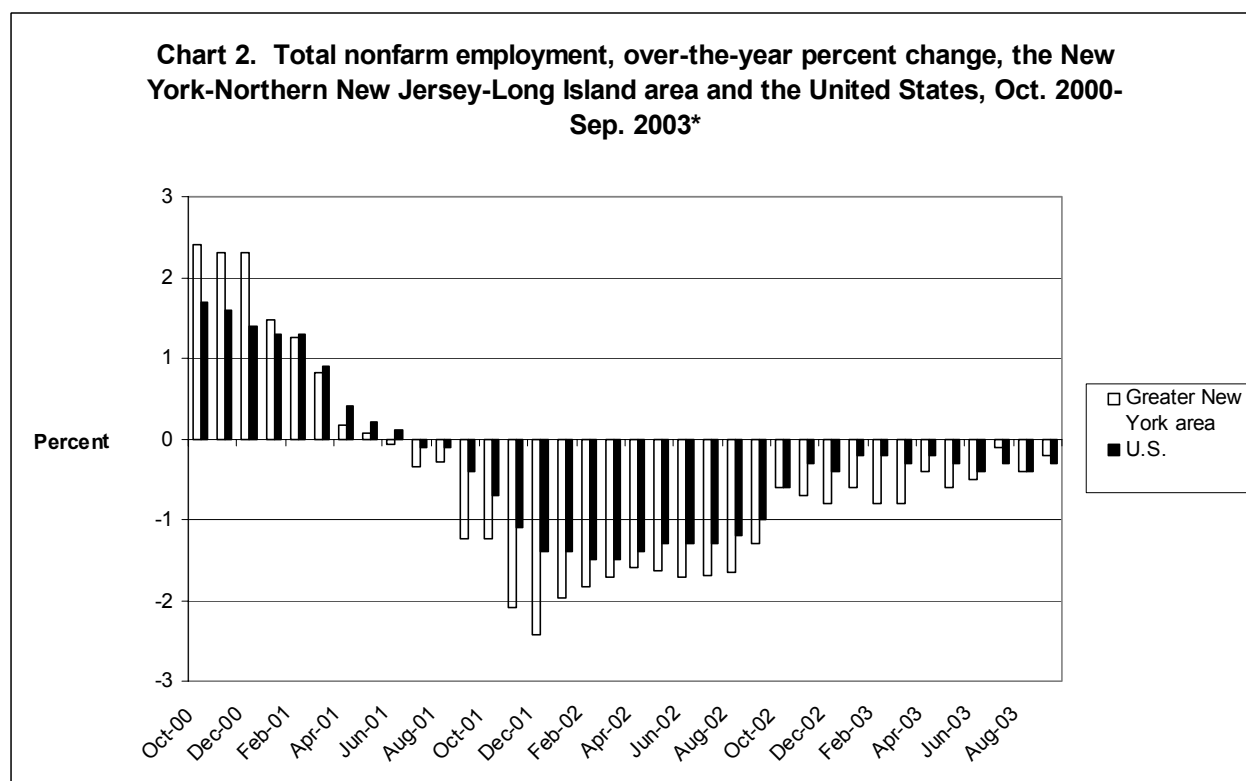
Total nonfarm employment for the greater New York area stood at 9,554,300 in September, 23,600 or 0.2 percent below its year ago level. Over the same period, the nation lost a roughly similar share, 0.4 percent, of its jobs. Regional Commissioner Michael L. Dolfman pointed out that the area's rate of job loss had slowed steadily since peaking at 2.4 percent in December 2001. Nationally, employment declines did not exceed 1.5 percent, reached in February and March 2002.

Manufacturing bore the brunt of the declines in the greater New York area through September, but other industries were also impacted including trade, transportation, and utilities; financial activities; information; and government. Still, there were several bright spots, as education and health services, leisure and hospitality, and construction and mining all added to their job count. (See table 2.)

¹ The New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, NY-NJ-CT-PA Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area (CMSA) consists of the Bergen-Passaic, NJ; Bridgeport, CT; Danbury, CT; Dutchess County, NY; Jersey City, NJ; Middlesex-Somerset-Hunterdon, NJ; Monmouth-Ocean, NJ; Nassau-Suffolk, NY; New Haven-Meriden, CT; New York, NY; Newark, NJ; Newburgh, NY-PA; Stamford-Norwalk, CT; Trenton, NJ; and Waterbury, CT Primary Metropolitan Statistical areas. For convenience, the New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island CMSA is referred to as the greater New York area throughout this release.



Round-the-clock recorded messages for the Consumer Price Index and a variety of other **Bureau of Labor Statistics** data are available by dialing the **New York Information Office's** main telephone number: (212) 337-2400. For recorded messages, press '2.' Press '1' for 24-hour Fax-on-Demand service.



*In the release issued on November 4, 2003, unbenchmarked data for the United States were used to calculate the over-the-year percent change in employment in Chart 2; the chart and related text have now been revised using benchmarked data.

Unemployment in the New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island area

While the greater New York area's unemployment rate has been flat over the year, it nonetheless has risen by 1.3 percentage points since September 2001, when the nation was in the midst of a recession. Despite this increase, the area's unemployment rate remains well below the levels reached during the downturn of the early 1990s. Since the last national recession began in March 2001, the area's unemployment rate has not risen above 6.6 percent. From May 1991 through April 1994, by contrast, the rate never dipped below 7.0 percent, and it peaked at 9.7 percent in July 1992.

The greater New York area, which consists of 15 primary metropolitan statistical areas (PMSAs) spread across three states, contains three of the largest in the United States—New York, Newark, and Nassau-Suffolk. Though geographically close to one another, these three PMSAs, nevertheless, highlight the sometimes large differences in unemployment which can exist between areas. The jobless rate for the New York PMSA averaged 7.9 percent in September compared with 6.0 percent in the Newark PMSA, 4.1 percent in the Nassau-Suffolk PMSA. New York City, within the New York PMSA, had the highest jobless rate in the greater New York area at 8.6 percent. Nassau-Suffolk had the lowest rate, while Newark's was little different from that for the nation. (See table A.) Over the year, the unemployment rate rose 1 percentage point in New York City, 0.8 percentage point in the New York PMSA, while changing little in the Newark and Nassau-Suffolk PMSAs. The rise in the unemployment rate for New York City reflected an over-the-year increase of 33,800 in the number of unemployed to 317,600.

Table A. Major indicators of labor market activity, New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island area and geographic components, not seasonally adjusted

	2002 Sep.	June	2003 July	Aug.	Sep. p	Change from Sep. 2002 to Sep. 2003
HOUSEHOLD DATA						
	Unemployment rates					
New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island	6.0	6.0	6.4	6.1	6.2	0.2
Connecticut portion	4.0	5.1	5.3	4.9	4.5	0.5
New Jersey portion	5.9	5.8	6.5	5.8	5.7	-0.2
Newark PMSA	6.2	6.1	6.8	6.1	6.0	-0.2
New York portion	6.3	6.2	6.5	6.5	6.8	0.5
Nassau-Suffolk PMSA	4.3	4.0	4.4	4.3	4.1	-0.2
New York PMSA	7.1	7.1	7.5	7.4	7.9	0.8
New York City	7.6	7.7	8.1	8.1	8.6	1.0
ESTABLISHMENT DATA						
	Nonfarm employment (in thousands)					
New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island	9,577.9	9,681.3	9,611.2	9,539.1	9,554.3	-23.6
Connecticut portion	817.2	826.5	820.2	814.7	815.6	-1.6
New Jersey portion	3,198.9	3,254.7	3,224.4	3,209.9	3,213.8	14.9
Newark PMSA	1,003.2	1,026.4	1,017.7	1,012.5	1,013.7	10.5
New York portion	5,561.8	5,600.1	5,566.6	5,514.5	5,524.9	-36.9
Nassau-Suffolk PMSA	1,212.3	1,236.7	1,220.2	1,203.5	1,213.3	1.0
New York PMSA	4,095.8	4,106.0	4,091.7	4,056.2	4,054.3	-41.5
New York City	3,540.2	3,542.7	3,534.3	3,501.5	3,496.3	-43.9

p = preliminary.

NOTE: The Connecticut portion consists of the Bridgeport, CT; Danbury, CT; New Haven-Meriden, CT; Stamford-Norwalk, CT; and Waterbury, CT primary metropolitan statistical areas (PMSAs). The New Jersey portion consists of the Bergen-Passaic, NJ; Jersey City, NJ; Middlesex-Somerset-Hunterdon, NJ; Monmouth-Ocean, NJ; Newark, NJ; and Trenton, NJ PMSAs. The New York portion consists of the Dutchess County, NY; Nassau-Suffolk, NY; New York, NY; and Newburgh, NY-PA PMSAs.

Employment in the New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island Area

The greater New York area continued to shed jobs over the year, though the 0.2-percent pace in September was far slower than in 2002 and the latter months of 2001. Only a year ago, in September 2002, employment had fallen by 1.3 percent over the twelve-month period, and in December 2001, job losses peaked at 2.4 percent. During the recession of the early 1990s, the greater New York area experienced an even steeper rate of decline, peaking at 5.1 percent in July and August of 1991.

Manufacturing continued its downward slide, dropping 30,600 jobs in the greater New York area from September 2002 to September 2003. Since March 2001 when the last recession began, manufacturing has shed 115,900 jobs, or roughly one of every seven positions. Trade, transportation, and utilities, the largest industry sector in the greater New York area, accounting for about one-fifth of all employment, lost 11,800 jobs from September a year ago. Financial activities dropped 9,100 jobs, and the information sector, 8,600. Information's loss was, however, the second smallest since December 2001. Similarly, employment in professional and business services, which was down 3,900 in September, recorded the smallest loss since July 2001. While the over-the-year losses were slowing in several industries, others were adding to their job count in September. Employment increased by 23,900 in education and health services over the year, and by 11,300 in leisure and hospitality.

Employment declines within the greater New York area were concentrated in the New York PMSA, where the job count contracted by 41,500, with New York City accounting for all of the losses. The number of jobs in the Newark PMSA, in contrast, expanded by 10,500, and in the Nassau-Suffolk PMSA, the count was little changed, up 1,000 over the year.

Employment in both the New York PMSA and New York City shrank in many industry sectors over the year. New York City was particularly hard hit, with sharp declines in manufacturing and information, down 7.4 and 5.1 percent, respectively, with gentler declines of 2.9 to 0.7 percent in transportation, and utilities; government; financial activities; other services; and professional and business services. Still, jobs in construction, and education and health services grew strongly, up 6.6 and 2.0 percent, respectively, but did little to ameliorate the large number of losses in the City. In the Nassau-Suffolk PMSA, on the other hand, losses were confined to several industries (manufacturing; professional and business services; and trade, transportation, and utilities), while offsetting gains were spread across a number of industry sectors including leisure and hospitality, information, financial services, and education and health services. In the Newark PMSA, all but two industries (manufacturing and information) registered employment growth over the year, led by gains in professional and business services, leisure and hospitality, financial activities, education and health services, and government.

Unemployment in the 30 largest metropolitan areas

Three primary metropolitan statistical areas in the greater New York area—New York, Nassau-Suffolk, and Newark—are among the 30 largest metropolitan areas in the country (based on the 2000 Census population ranking). These PMSAs are also three of the six largest areas located in the nation's Northeast region.

The New York area had an unemployment rate of 7.9 percent in September, the highest rate of any metropolitan area in the Northeast, while the Nassau-Suffolk area had a rate of 4.1 percent, the lowest in the region and tied for third-lowest in the nation. The other four Northeastern metropolitan areas—Boston, Mass.; Newark; Philadelphia, Penn.; and Pittsburgh, Penn.—had rates ranging from 4.6 to 6.0 percent, all of which were below or roughly equal to the national average. The New York area's unemployment rate increased by 0.8 percentage point over the year; rates in the other five areas changed little.

Among the other three regions of the country, Washington, D.C.-Md.-Va.-W.Va., in the South had the lowest unemployment among the 30 largest areas at 3.2 percent, and Portland-Vancouver, Ore.-Wash., in the West had the highest, 8.0 percent. All together, four of the eight areas in the South had jobless rates 1 percentage point or more below the national average, compared with only two of ten areas in the West. In contrast, three areas in the South had rates 1 percentage point or more above the U.S. rate, the same as in the West. Variations in the unemployment rates for the six areas in the Midwest were not as wide, ranging from 4.6 percent in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn.-Wis., to 6.9 and 7.1 percent in Chicago, Ill., and Detroit, Mich., respectively.

Over-the-year changes in unemployment rates were fairly small in most metropolitan areas in September regardless of region. However, each region had one area with a sizable increase. Detroit led with an over-the-year rise of 1.3 percentage points in its jobless rate, followed by New York in the Northeast and Portland-Vancouver in the West, both with increases of 0.8 percentage point, and Houston, Texas, in the South region with an increase of 0.7 percentage point. Of the 17 areas recording unemployment rate declines, six were located in the South and six in the West. The largest over-the-year drops were registered by San Francisco, Calif. (-1.0 percentage point), Orange County, Calif. (-0.7 percentage point), and Oakland, Calif., and Phoenix-Mesa, Ariz. (both -0.6 percentage point), all in the West region.

Employment in the 30 largest metropolitan areas

Half the metropolitan areas in the Northeast suffered over-the-year job losses. The Boston PMSA shed 1.8 percent of its employment, followed by the Pittsburgh area, at 1.3 percent, and the New York area, at 1.0 percent. Payroll jobs expanded by 1.0 percent in Newark, the largest growth among the six MSAs in the region, followed by a 0.5 percent increase in Philadelphia. Nassau-Suffolk experienced little change at 0.1 percent.

Of all the regions, the Midwest was the only one to suffer over-the-year job losses in each of its large metropolitan areas. The losses ranged from 1.2 percent in Detroit to 0.9 percent in Chicago. Job declines were steeper in the West but not as pervasive, with Portland-Vancouver and San Francisco losing 2.1 and 1.4 percent of their jobs, respectively. Employment decreased or was little changed in four other areas out West over the year, but was up in the remaining four: Phoenix-Mesa (1.2 percent); Riverside-San Bernardino, Calif. (1.2 percent); Denver, Col. (0.5 percent); and San Diego, Calif. (0.4 percent). In the South region, job losses were concentrated in Texas, with Dallas, Fort Worth-Arlington, and Houston, shedding 0.7, 0.6, and 0.3 percent of their jobs, respectively. Employment was virtually unchanged over the year in Baltimore, Md., and up in the other four areas, led by a 3.0-percent increase in Atlanta, Ga., the highest rate among the 30 largest metropolitan areas. Tampa-St. Petersburg-Clearwater, Fla., had the second-highest rate of expansion in the South at 1.3 percent, followed by Miami, Fla., and Washington, D.C.-Md.-Va.-W.V., both at 0.5 percent.

Table 1. Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population, New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, not seasonally adjusted
(Numbers in thousands)

Area and Employment Status	2002		2003		Change from	
	Sep.	June	July	Aug.	Sep. 2002 to	Sep. p Sep. 2003
New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island CMSA						
Civilian labor force	10,564.5	10,730.7	10,841.1	10,732.8	10,584.0	19.5
Unemployed	628.7	639.7	695.4	659.3	659.8	31.1
Unemployment rate	6.0	6.0	6.4	6.1	6.2	0.2
Connecticut portion						
Civilian labor force	929.3	954.4	969.2	956.3	931.2	1.9
Unemployed	36.9	48.4	51.4	46.7	41.7	4.8
Unemployment rate	4.0	5.1	5.3	4.9	4.5	0.5
New Jersey portion						
Civilian labor force	3,440.9	3,549.9	3,573.1	3,526.7	3,485.9	45.0
Unemployed	202.6	205.5	231.5	205.8	199.1	-3.5
Unemployment rate	5.9	5.8	6.5	5.8	5.7	-0.2
Newark PMSA						
Civilian labor force	1,050.6	1,089.5	1,096.6	1,083.0	1,070.6	20.0
Unemployed	65.2	66.4	74.2	66.6	64.7	-0.5
Unemployment rate	6.2	6.1	6.8	6.1	6.0	-0.2
New York portion						
Civilian labor force	6,194.4	6,226.4	6,298.8	6,245.4	6,166.9	-27.5
Unemployed	389.1	385.9	412.5	406.2	419.0	29.9
Unemployment rate	6.3	6.2	6.5	6.5	6.8	0.5
Nassau-Suffolk PMSA						
Civilian labor force	1,467.9	1,525.9	1,537.5	1,510.3	1,475.5	7.6
Unemployed	63.7	61.7	67.6	64.7	60.7	-3.0
Unemployment rate	4.3	4.0	4.4	4.3	4.1	-0.2
New York PMSA						
Civilian labor force	4,408.8	4,372.2	4,429.8	4,404.9	4,367.6	-41.2
Unemployed	311.8	310.2	330.5	327.6	344.5	32.7
Unemployment rate	7.1	7.1	7.5	7.4	7.9	0.8
New York City						
Civilian labor force	3,726.6	3,664.8	3,717.1	3,698.3	3,679.6	-47.0
Unemployed	283.8	282.2	301.4	299.0	317.6	33.8
Unemployment rate	7.6	7.7	8.1	8.1	8.6	1.0

p =preliminary.

NOTE: Data refer to place of residence. All estimates are provisional and will be revised when new benchmark and population information becomes available. Changes were calculated using unrounded numbers.

Table 2. Employees on nonfarm payrolls by industry, New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, not seasonally adjusted

(Numbers in thousands)

Area and Industry	2002		2003		Sep. p	Change from Sep. 2002 to Sep. 2003	
	Sep.	June	July	Aug.		Number	Percent
New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island CMSA							
Total nonfarm	9,577.9	9,681.3	9,611.2	9,539.1	9,554.3	-23.6	-0.2
Total private	8,126.1	8,177.7	8,135.7	8,104.9	8,110.1	-16.0	-0.2
Construction and mining	394.0	400.5	402.4	405.7	403.4	9.4	2.4
Manufacturing	693.4	669.9	662.0	660.0	662.8	-30.6	-4.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities	1,829.2	1,828.7	1,806.3	1,800.0	1,817.4	-11.8	-0.6
Information	352.2	349.1	350.4	346.1	343.6	-8.6	-2.4
Financial activities	864.8	866.6	868.2	864.3	855.7	-9.1	-1.1
Professional and business services	1,403.7	1,403.0	1,394.6	1,397.2	1,399.8	-3.9	-0.3
Education and health services	1,532.2	1,560.9	1,545.2	1,533.0	1,556.1	23.9	1.6
Leisure and hospitality	675.4	708.6	715.8	710.7	686.7	11.3	1.7
Other services	381.2	390.4	390.8	387.9	384.6	3.4	0.9
Government	1,451.8	1,503.6	1,475.5	1,434.2	1,444.2	-7.6	-0.5
Connecticut portion							
Total nonfarm	817.2	826.5	820.2	814.7	815.6	-1.6	-0.2
Total private	716.5	723.7	722.8	719.0	713.6	-2.9	-0.4
Construction and mining	33.0	32.7	33.4	33.5	32.8	-0.2	-0.6
Manufacturing	102.9	99.7	97.6	97.6	98.4	-4.5	-4.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities	151.7	153.2	151.5	150.6	150.9	-0.8	-0.5
Information	25.4	26.1	26.2	25.9	26.0	0.6	2.4
Financial activities	60.9	61.3	61.7	61.1	60.2	-0.7	-1.1
Professional and business services	111.4	111.8	111.0	110.3	109.9	-1.5	-1.3
Education and health services	139.2	140.9	140.7	139.1	140.6	1.4	1.0
Leisure and hospitality	58.9	63.9	65.7	66.1	60.6	1.7	2.9
Other services	33.1	34.1	35.0	34.8	34.2	1.1	3.3
Government	100.7	102.8	97.4	95.7	102.0	1.3	1.3
New Jersey portion							
Total nonfarm	3,198.9	3,254.7	3,224.4	3,209.9	3,213.8	14.9	0.5
Total private	2,731.9	2,763.9	2,753.3	2,750.0	2,740.2	8.3	0.3
Construction and mining	131.9	132.8	133.9	135.1	132.9	1.0	0.8
Manufacturing	297.9	292.2	289.5	288.6	288.6	-9.3	-3.1
Trade, transportation, and utilities	710.6	718.1	710.5	707.9	714.3	3.7	0.5
Information	100.2	99.9	100.0	99.2	99.1	-1.1	-1.1
Financial activities	234.7	237.4	237.9	237.6	235.4	0.7	0.3
Professional and business services	510.3	511.6	509.8	513.4	512.1	1.8	0.4
Education and health services	423.6	433.1	430.5	428.7	431.4	7.8	1.8
Leisure and hospitality	203.9	214.8	216.6	216.3	205.8	1.9	0.9
Other services	118.8	124.0	124.6	123.2	120.6	1.8	1.5
Government	467.0	490.8	471.1	459.9	473.6	6.6	1.4
Newark PMSA							
Total nonfarm	1,003.2	1,026.4	1,017.7	1,012.5	1,013.7	10.5	1.0
Total private	855.9	872.0	867.3	866.2	863.3	7.4	0.9
Construction and mining	41.4	42.0	42.1	42.4	41.6	0.2	0.5
Manufacturing	103.1	100.9	99.6	99.3	98.6	-4.5	-4.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities	216.9	218.9	215.2	214.1	218.0	1.1	0.5
Information	26.9	27.0	27.0	26.7	25.8	-1.1	-4.1
Financial activities	77.7	80.5	80.4	80.3	79.9	2.2	2.8
Professional and business services	157.7	161.1	162.0	163.9	162.9	5.2	3.3
Education and health services	134.2	138.4	138.2	138.4	137.1	2.9	2.2
Leisure and hospitality	58.2	60.4	60.1	59.7	58.3	0.1	0.2
Other services	39.8	42.8	42.7	41.4	41.1	1.3	3.3
Government	147.3	154.4	150.4	146.3	150.4	3.1	2.1

Table 2. Employees on nonfarm payrolls by industry, New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island, not seasonally adjusted-continued

(Numbers in thousands)

Area and Industry	2002		2003		Sep. p	Change from Sep. 2002 to Sep. 2003	
	Sep.	June	July	Aug.		Number	Percent
New York portion							
Total nonfarm	5,561.8	5,600.1	5,566.6	5,514.5	5,524.9	-36.9	-0.7
Total private	4,677.7	4,690.1	4,659.6	4,635.9	4,656.3	-21.4	-0.5
Construction and mining	229.1	235.0	235.1	237.1	237.7	8.6	3.8
Manufacturing	292.6	278.0	274.9	273.8	275.8	-16.8	-5.7
Trade, transportation, and utilities	966.9	957.4	944.3	941.5	952.2	-14.7	-1.5
Information	226.6	223.1	224.2	221.0	218.5	-8.1	-3.6
Financial activities	569.2	567.9	568.6	565.6	560.1	-9.1	-1.6
Professional and business services	782.0	779.6	773.8	773.5	777.8	-4.2	-0.5
Education and health services	969.4	986.9	974.0	965.2	984.1	14.7	1.5
Leisure and hospitality	412.6	429.9	433.5	428.3	420.3	7.7	1.9
Other services	229.3	232.3	231.2	229.9	229.8	0.5	0.2
Government	884.1	910.0	907.0	878.6	868.6	-15.5	-1.8
Nassau-Suffolk PMSA							
Total nonfarm	1,212.3	1,236.7	1,220.2	1,203.5	1,213.3	1.0	0.1
Total private	1,023.1	1,033.2	1,027.7	1,023.8	1,023.4	0.3	0.0
Construction and mining	66.2	65.6	67.1	67.3	66.7	0.5	0.8
Manufacturing	91.6	87.5	86.3	86.3	87.3	-4.3	-4.7
Trade, transportation, and utilities	268.3	269.2	263.5	262.6	265.8	-2.5	-0.9
Information	31.3	33.4	35.8	32.9	32.0	0.7	2.2
Financial activities	81.9	84.6	84.1	84.1	83.1	1.2	1.5
Professional and business services	153.7	151.0	150.4	150.7	151.7	-2.0	-1.3
Education and health services	186.1	188.7	186.1	185.2	188.3	2.2	1.2
Leisure and hospitality	93.7	101.7	103.1	102.9	97.3	3.6	3.8
Other services	50.3	51.5	51.3	51.8	51.2	0.9	1.8
Government	189.2	203.5	192.5	179.7	189.9	0.7	0.4
New York PMSA							
Total nonfarm	4,095.8	4,106.0	4,091.7	4,056.2	4,054.3	-41.5	-1.0
Total private	3,452.4	3,453.0	3,427.9	3,407.2	3,427.4	-25.0	-0.7
Construction and mining	151.4	158.2	156.7	158.5	160.0	8.6	5.7
Manufacturing	175.0	164.5	162.9	161.8	162.9	-12.1	-6.9
Trade, transportation, and utilities	643.5	631.9	625.2	623.1	629.7	-13.8	-2.1
Information	190.5	184.9	183.5	183.1	181.8	-8.7	-4.6
Financial activities	476.8	472.2	473.3	470.1	465.6	-11.2	-2.3
Professional and business services	609.5	608.6	603.8	603.1	606.6	-2.9	-0.5
Education and health services	738.7	755.3	745.3	737.4	750.7	12.0	1.6
Leisure and hospitality	297.6	306.7	307.4	302.0	301.2	3.6	1.2
Other services	169.4	170.7	169.8	168.1	168.9	-0.5	-0.3
Government	643.4	653.0	663.8	649.0	626.9	-16.5	-2.6
New York City							
Total nonfarm	3,540.2	3,542.7	3,534.3	3,501.5	3,496.3	-43.9	-1.2
Total private	2,989.0	2,985.0	2,961.2	2,942.1	2,960.8	-28.2	-0.9
Natural resources and mining	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
Construction	117.1	123.3	122.1	123.5	124.8	7.7	6.6
Manufacturing	140.8	132.2	130.8	129.4	130.4	-10.4	-7.4
Trade, transportation, and utilities	535.3	523.0	518.4	516.3	519.8	-15.5	-2.9
Information	171.5	165.8	164.6	164.1	162.8	-8.7	-5.1
Financial activities	443.0	438.6	439.6	436.6	431.8	-11.2	-2.5
Professional and business services	539.9	537.7	533.8	532.7	536.2	-3.7	-0.7
Education and health services	638.7	654.8	645.3	638.7	651.2	12.5	2.0
Leisure and hospitality	255.4	262.2	260.9	256.8	258.7	3.3	1.3
Other services	147.2	147.3	145.6	143.9	145.0	-2.2	-1.5
Government	551.2	557.7	573.1	559.4	535.5	-15.7	-2.8

p =preliminary.

NOTE: Data are counts of jobs by place of work. Estimates are currently projected from March 2002 benchmark levels. Estimates subsequent to the current benchmark month are provisional and will be revised when new information becomes available. Changes were calculated using unrounded numbers.

Table 3. Unemployment rates, four census regions, and thirty metropolitan areas, not seasonally adjusted

Area	2002	June	2003		Change from	
	Sep.		July	Aug.	Sep. p	Sep. 2002 to Sep. 2003
Northeast	5.4	5.6	5.8	5.5	5.5	0.1
Boston, MA-NH PMSA	5.2	5.3	5.2	5.3	5.3	0.1
Nassau-Suffolk, NY PMSA	4.3	4.0	4.4	4.3	4.1	-0.2
New York, NY PMSA	7.1	7.1	7.5	7.4	7.9	0.8
Newark, NJ PMSA	6.2	6.1	6.8	6.1	6.0	0.2
Philadelphia, PA-NJ PMSA	5.7	5.7	5.9	5.4	5.4	-0.3
Pittsburgh, PA MSA	5.0	5.8	5.6	4.9	4.6	-0.4
South	5.5	6.2	6.1	5.7	5.4	-0.1
Atlanta, GA MSA	5.6	5.5	5.3	4.9	4.8	-0.1
Baltimore, MD PMSA	4.7	5.2	5.4	4.9	4.8	-0.1
Dallas, TX PMSA	7.3	8.0	7.4	7.1	6.9	-0.4
Fort Worth-Arlington, TX PMSA	6.2	7.1	6.7	6.4	6.2	0.0
Houston, TX PMSA	6.1	7.7	7.2	7.0	6.8	0.7
Miami, FL PMSA	7.6	7.8	7.4	7.6	7.2	-0.4
Tampa-St. Pete.-Clearwater, FL MSA	4.6	4.7	4.5	4.6	4.5	-0.1
Washington, DC-MD-VA-WV PMSA	3.6	3.7	3.5	3.4	3.2	-0.4
Midwest	5.1	5.9	6.0	5.6	5.4	0.3
Chicago, IL PMSA	6.5	6.8	6.7	6.8	6.9	0.4
Cleveland-Lorain-Elyria, OH PMSA	6.3	7.0	6.6	6.0	6.2	-0.1
Detroit, MI PMSA	5.8	7.6	8.3	7.1	7.1	1.3
Kansas City, MO-KS MSA	5.8	6.0	6.0	5.9	5.6	-0.2
Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN-WI MSA	4.3	4.7	4.4	4.1	4.6	0.3
St. Louis, MO-IL MSA	5.5	6.3	6.2	6.2	5.8	0.3
West	6.2	6.6	6.7	6.4	6.0	-0.2
Denver, CO PMSA ¹	5.8	6.2	5.9	5.8	5.8	0.0
Los Angeles-Long Beach, CA PMSA	6.7	7.1	7.6	7.2	6.8	0.1
Oakland, CA PMSA	6.4	6.6	6.7	6.3	5.8	-0.6
Orange County, CA PMSA	4.3	4.0	4.1	3.9	3.6	-0.7
Phoenix-Mesa, AZ MSA	5.8	5.3	5.6	5.5	5.2	-0.6
Portland-Vancouver, OR-WA PMSA	7.2	8.9	8.5	8.1	8.0	0.8
Riverside-San Bernardino, CA PMSA	6.4	6.2	6.6	6.5	5.9	-0.5
San Diego, CA MSA	4.5	4.5	4.7	4.4	4.1	-0.4
San Francisco, CA PMSA	6.1	6.1	6.0	5.7	5.1	-1.0
Seattle-Bellevue-Everett, WA PMSA	6.7	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.0	0.3

¹ Data for 2003 are not directly comparable with data for previous years because of a change in metropolitan area definitions.

p =preliminary.

NOTE: Data refer to place of residence. All estimates are provisional and will be revised when new benchmark and population information becomes available. Changes were calculated using unrounded numbers.

Table 4. Employees on nonfarm payrolls, thirty metropolitan areas, not seasonally adjusted

(Numbers in thousands)

Area	2002 Sep.	June	2003		Aug.	Sep. p	Change from Sep. 2002 to Sep. 2003	
			July				Number	Percent
Northeast								
Boston, MA-NH PMSA	1,975.4	1,963.5	1,941.9		1,934.0	1,939.9	-35.5	-1.8
Nassau-Suffolk, NY PMSA	1,212.3	1,236.7	1,220.2		1,203.5	1,213.3	1.0	0.1
New York, NY PMSA	4,095.8	4,106.0	4,091.7		4,056.2	4,054.3	-41.5	-1.0
Newark, NJ PMSA	1,003.2	1,026.4	1,017.7		1,012.5	1,013.7	10.5	1.0
Philadelphia, PA PMSA	2,403.9	2,432.7	2,405.8		2,401.1	2,415.6	11.7	0.5
Pittsburgh, PA MSA	1,126.0	1,123.6	1,111.3		1,105.1	1,111.5	-14.5	-1.3
South								
Atlanta, GA MSA	2,175.0	2,213.7	2,203.4		2,225.9	2,240.7	65.7	3.0
Baltimore, MD PMSA	1,249.9	1,266.4	1,249.5		1,248.8	1,249.8	-0.1	0.0
Dallas, TX PMSA	1,936.7	1,923.0	1,910.2		1,914.4	1,922.3	-14.4	-0.7
Fort Worth-Arlington, TX PMSA	788.4	788.3	781.6		783.9	783.9	-4.5	-0.6
Houston, TX PMSA	2,115.8	2,103.4	2,091.2		2,101.8	2,108.6	-7.2	-0.3
Miami, FL PMSA	1,019.2	1,026.3	1,007.8		1,005.7	1,024.1	4.9	0.5
Tampa-St. Pete.-Clearwater, FL MSA	1,219.2	1,227.5	1,219.6		1,230.7	1,235.4	16.2	1.3
Washington, DC-MD-VA-WV PMSA	2,817.3	2,847.5	2,831.7		2,816.5	2,830.2	12.9	0.5
Midwest								
Chicago, IL PMSA	4,154.7	4,137.8	4,127.2		4,120.6	4,115.5	-39.2	-0.9
Cleveland-Lorain-Elyria, OH PMSA	1,125.5	1,121.8	1,111.9		1,106.5	1,113.1	-12.4	-1.1
Detroit, MI PMSA	2,089.0	2,111.5	2,057.5		2,047.9	2,063.4	-25.6	-1.2
Kansas City, MO-KS MSA	946.0	951.0	935.3		935.9	935.6	-10.4	-1.1
Minneapolis-St. Paul, MN-WI MSA	1,720.8	1,723.9	1,700.1		1,701.0	1,703.6	-17.2	-1.0
St. Louis, MO-IL MSA	1,311.8	1,309.2	1,288.3		1,288.9	1,298.5	-13.3	-1.0
West								
Denver, CO PMSA ¹	1,152.6	1,168.0	1,159.7		1,159.6	1,158.0	5.4	0.5
Los Angeles-Long Beach, CA PMSA	4,033.9	4,013.7	3,975.8		3,968.3	3,994.2	-39.7	-1.0
Oakland, CA PMSA	1,043.0	1,047.4	1,037.0		1,035.1	1,042.0	-1.0	-0.1
Orange County, CA PMSA	1,403.9	1,407.6	1,399.9		1,395.4	1,403.1	-0.8	-0.1
Phoenix-Mesa, AZ MSA	1,593.0	1,594.6	1,578.3		1,595.1	1,612.4	19.4	1.2
Portland-Vancouver, OR-WA PMSA	936.8	924.2	913.4		912.5	917.5	-19.3	-2.1
Riverside-San Bernardino, CA PMSA	1,057.7	1,076.4	1,065.5		1,059.8	1,070.1	12.4	1.2
San Diego, CA MSA	1,222.3	1,236.9	1,220.3		1,225.2	1,227.7	5.4	0.4
San Francisco, CA PMSA	986.1	972.6	966.5		968.0	972.1	-14.0	-1.4
Seattle-Bellevue-Everett, WA PMSA	1,358.6	1,357.5	1,349.2		1,347.5	1,349.2	-9.4	-0.7

¹ Data for 2003 are not directly comparable with data for previous years because of a change in metropolitan area definitions.

p =preliminary.

NOTE: Data are counts of jobs by place of work. Estimates are currently projected from March 2002 benchmark levels. Estimates subsequent to the current benchmark month are provisional and will be revised when new information becomes available. Changes were calculated using unrounded numbers.

Technical Note

This release presents employment and unemployment data from the Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) program (tables A, 1, and 3) and nonfarm payroll employment estimates from the Current Employment Statistics (CES) program (tables A, 2, and 4) for the New York-Northern New Jersey-Long Island Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area and the 30 largest metropolitan areas. A Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area contains two or more Primary Metropolitan Statistical Areas. Metropolitan areas that are not part of a Consolidated Metropolitan Statistical Area are referred to as Metropolitan Statistical Areas. The rankings were based on population estimates for Metropolitan Statistical Areas and Primary Metropolitan Statistical Areas collected by the U.S. Census Bureau in 2000. The LAUS and CES programs are both Federal-State cooperative endeavors.

Labor force and unemployment-from the LAUS program

Definitions. The labor force and unemployment data are based on the same concepts and definitions as those used for the official national estimates obtained from the Current Population Survey (CPS), a sample survey of households that is conducted for the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) by the U.S. Census Bureau. The labor force includes both the employed and the unemployed. Employed persons are those who did any work at all for pay or profit in the survey reference week (the week including the 12th of the month) or worked 15 hours or more without pay in a family business or farm, plus those not working who have a job from which they were temporarily absent, whether or not paid, for such reasons as labor-management dispute, illness, or vacation. Unemployed persons are those who did not work at all (in the reference week), have actively looked for a job (sometime in the 4-week period ending with the survey reference week), and are currently available for work; persons on layoff expecting recall need not be looking for work to be counted as unemployed.

Method of estimation. Effective January 1996, estimates for all states, the District of Columbia, the Los Angeles-Long Beach metropolitan area, and New York City are produced using estimating equations based on regression techniques. For all other substate areas, estimates are prepared through indirect estimation procedures. Employment estimates, which are based largely on "place of work" estimates from the CES program, are adjusted to refer to place of residence as used in the CPS. Unemployment estimates are aggregates of persons previously employed in industries covered by state unemployment (UI) laws and entrants to the labor force data from the CPS. The substate estimates of employment and unemployment which geographically exhaust the entire state, are adjusted proportionally to ensure that they add to the independently estimated state totals. A detailed description of the estimation procedures is available from BLS upon request.

Annual revisions. Labor force and unemployment data shown for the prior year reflect adjustments made at the end of each year, usually with January estimates. The adjusted estimates reflect updated population data from the U.S. Census Bureau and any revisions in the other data sources. In addition, data for all states, the District of Columbia, and the two large substate areas noted are adjusted annually to equal the CPS annual averages, usually effective with January estimates. All other substate estimates are adjusted to add to the revised (benchmarked) state estimates.

Employment—from the CES program

Definitions. Employment data refer to persons on establishment payrolls who receive pay for any part of the pay period which includes the 12th of the month. Persons are counted at their place of work rather than at their place of residence; those appearing on more than one payroll are counted on each payroll. Industries are classified on the basis of their principal activity in accordance with the 2002 version of the North American Industry Classification System.

Method of estimation. The employment data are estimated using a "link relative" technique in which a ratio (link relative) of current-month employment to that of the previous month is computed from a sample of establishments reporting for both months. The estimates of employment for the current month are obtained by multiplying the estimates for the previous month by these ratios. Small-domain models are used as the official estimators for the approximately 10 percent of CES published series.

Annual revisions. Employment estimates are adjusted annually to a complete count of jobs, called benchmarks, derived principally from tax reports which are submitted by employers who are covered under state unemployment insurance (UI) laws. The benchmark information is used to adjust the monthly estimates between the new benchmark and the preceding one and also to establish the level of employment for the new benchmark month. Thus, the benchmarking process establishes the level of employment, and the sample is used to measure the month-to-month changes in the level for the subsequent months.

Reliability of the estimates

The estimates presented in this release are based on sample survey and administrative data and thus are subject to sampling and other types of errors. Sampling error is a measure of sampling variability—that is, variation that occurs by chance because a

sample rather than the entire population is surveyed. Survey data are also subject to nonsampling errors, such as those which can be introduced into the data collection and processing operations. Estimates not directly derived from sample surveys are subject to additional errors resulting from the special estimation processes used. The sums of individual items may not always equal the totals shown in the same tables because of rounding. With respect to the LAUS program, unemployment rates are computed, in most instances, from unrounded data rather than from data that may be displayed in the tables; differences, however, are generally insignificant.

Labor force and unemployment estimates. Measures of sampling error, in the form of the standard errors for state annual average estimates derived from the CPS, are available in the annual BLS bulletin, *Geographic Profile of Employment and Unemployment*. Error measures cannot be computed for substate areas because of the special estimation processes used. Measures of nonsampling error for CPS data are not available, but additional information on the subject is provided in the BLS monthly periodical, *Employment and Earnings*.

Employment estimates. Measures of sampling error are available for state CES data at the NAICS supersector level and for metropolitan area CES data at the total nonfarm level. Information on recent benchmark revisions for states is available on the BLS Web site at (<http://www.bls.gov/sae/>).

Area definitions. The substate area data published in this release reflect the standards and definitions established by the U.S. Office of Management and Budget, dated Sep. 30, 1996. A detailed list of the geographic definitions is published annually in the May issue of *Employment and Earnings*.

Additional information

More complete information on the technical procedures used to develop these estimates and additional data appear in *Employment and Earnings*, which is available by subscription from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402 (telephone 202-512-1800).

Estimates of unadjusted and seasonally adjusted labor force and unemployment data for states, census regions and divisions, and two areas are available in the news release, *Regional and State Employment and Unemployment*. Estimates of labor force and unemployment for all states, metropolitan areas, labor market areas, counties, cities with a population of 25,000 or more, and other areas used in the administration of various federal economic assistance programs are available from the BLS Internet at (<http://www.bls.gov/lau/>). Employment data from the CES program are available at (<http://www.bls.gov/sae/>).

Information in this release will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. Voice phone: 202-691-5200; TDD message referral phone: 1-800-877-8339.